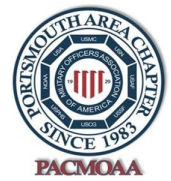




The Salute Online



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield, Franklin, and surrounding counties, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are the Second Thursday of each month except July and August. Although **MOAA** and **PACMOAA** actively lobby legislatures for all US uniformed services members, we are nonpartisan and do not participate in political activities.

VOLUME XXXXIV Issue VIII

LEARN MORE AT PACMOAA.ORG

OCTOBER 2025

The Mission: PACMOAA supports the Military Community through legislative advocacy, mentoring youth, and community involvement.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



PACMOAA Family:

My personal thanks to the PACMOAA family and especially Mary Synder for leading our September dinner meeting and arranging the Honorable Senator Emily Jordan to be our guest speaker. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our October 9th dinner meeting and welcoming CAPT Kim Shaughnessy-Granger (Commanding Officer Navy Medical Center-Portsmouth (NMCP) and of the Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Portsmouth), who will help us celebrate the 250th birthday of the US Navy.

My side trip to Columbus, Ohio, was amazing. I was able to film all three hours of the game and will show excerpts while we are eating dinner.

On a closing note, I will be asking you to help support the Fisher House, located on the NMCP hospital grounds.

This and other exciting veteran partnerships will be discussed during our November business meeting dinner.

Thanks for your support and confidence. Anchors aweigh...Bruce

CAPT Bruce LaLonde CPA,
USN (Ret)
PACMOAA President
757-241-3026

Right: Mary Snyder, PACMOAA 1st VP, Presents a Certificate of Appreciation to State Senator Emily Jordan, who was our speaker for September.



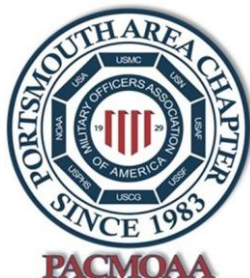
Left: State Senator Emily Jordan displaying the world famous PACMOAA mug.



Left: Mrs. Mary Snyder, PACMOAA 1st VP Presenting our server, Marie with a Thank you card for her service. She is leaving Roger Brown's for another position

VETERAN CRISIS HOTLINE Dial 988 then press 1

PACMOAA
LEADERSHIP
See Leadership Pulldown



CHAPTER NEWS

OCTOBER

- 02 Yom Kippur
- 03 NOAA Reestablished 1970 (US SURVEY of the COAST February 10 1807)
- 09 PACMOAA Dinner Meeting 1800 Celebrating The US NAVY's 250th Birthday with Cake Cutting**
- 11 **250 Years of NAVY Medicine**, Portsmouth Welcome Center, 2-3 PM
- 14 **VCOC Fourth Quarter Biennial Luncheon and Remembrance Ceremony**, Virginia War Memorial 1000-1530 (In Person Only, Not Virtual, All Welcome to Attend, Cost \$30, RSVP MAJ Sherry Ferki)
- 13 Columbus Day
- 13 U.S. NAVY 250th Birthday 1775
- 13 U. S. NAVY Memorial 34 Anniversary
- 14 CUBAN Missile Crisis 1962
- 23 BEIRUT Barracks Bombed 1983
- 24 United Nations Day
- 25 US Invades Grenada 1985
- 31 Halloween

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Bob Alexander

Duane Close

Jim Hoffer

James Webb Jones

September Dinner Meeting

will be held on **Thursday, October 9th** at Roger Brown's Banquet Room, 316 High Street, Portsmouth (757) 399-5377

Sign in and social time begins at 6 PM, with Dinner Served at 6:30 PM.

Buffett Menu

Chicken Parm

Tuscan Catfish w/Vodka cream Sauce

Green bean Casserole w/ Smoke Gouda and Fried onions

Basil Garlic Mash Potatoes

Sweet Potato Casserole

Harvest Salad with Dressing

Cornbread

Tea, Sweet Tea, Coffee, Lemonade and Water

Cost is \$25 (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, October 5th** with Sherry Ferki at 757-922-7030 or by email at:

navmedarmynurse@gmail.com.

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

Right: scan the QR Code to find out more about PACMOAA



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www.pacmoaa.org

SPEAKER**NMCP Commanding Officer Captain Kim Shaughnessy-Granger, NC, USN**

A native of Hanover, Massachusetts, Captain Kim Shaughnessy-Granger earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Villanova University in 1997. She was commissioned in 1997 through Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Captain Shaughnessy-Granger began her career at Naval Medical Center San Diego as a staff nurse in the Cardiac and Intensive Care Units. In 1999, she transferred to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, serving as a Labor and Delivery Staff and Charge Nurse, Mother Baby/Level II Nursery Division Officer, and Business Manager for Women's Health & Maternal Infant Services. In 2003, she attended Georgetown University for Duty Under Instruction (DUINS), where she studied nurse midwifery, earning a Master of Science degree, and was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society.

Upon graduation, Captain Shaughnessy-Granger was assigned to Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton as a staff Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) and served as faculty for the Family Medicine Residency training program. In August 2007, she transferred to US Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan, where she served as Department Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN), and as the first Nurse Corps Officer to be appointed as both Assistant Director and Director of Surgical Services. In August 2010, she transferred to US Naval Hospital Okinawa as Assistant Department Head for OB/GYN. While in Okinawa, she coordinated the local response for pregnant women and families evacuated from Yokosuka during Operation Tomodachi, following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. She also deployed with the Marine Corps 3rd Medical Battalion in support of the Cambodia Interoperability Program 2011, providing outreach clinical care and education to rural communities, and training in obstetric and neonatal emergencies to 50 Cambodian military physicians, midwives, and nurses.

Returning to the National Capital Region in 2012, she was assigned as Chief of Midwifery Services at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda and served as faculty for the OB/GYN Residency training program. In 2014 she transferred to Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, having been competitively selected as the first Nurse Corps officer to be appointed as Chief of Women's Health. In 2017, she reported to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) Office of Women's Health, then went on to serve as the Director of Secondary and Specialty Care, Deputy Assistant Deputy Chief for Healthcare Operations, Assistant Deputy Chief for Medical Operations, senior advisor to the Navy Surgeon General supporting Military Health System (MHS) Governance and reform, and as Navy Medicine Liaison to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Among her accomplishments during this time, she spearheaded development of the Surgeon General's first Female Force Readiness Strategy, helped design and shape the future of the Military Health System, and laid the foundation for organizational restructuring of BUMED to better align with Fleet requirements. She served as Executive Officer of Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Quantico, Virginia, from 2021 to 2023, and as Commanding Officer of NMRTC Annapolis and Naval Health Clinic Annapolis from July 2023 to July 25.

She currently serves as Commander, NMRTC Portsmouth and Director, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP).

Her military decorations include the Legion of Merit (2), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3), Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4), Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Expert Pistol and Rifle Medals, and various service and campaign awards. She earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Villanova University in 2017, was selected as a 2017 Tillman Scholar by the Pat Tillman Foundation, and in 2019 received the prestigious MHS Award for Nursing Leadership Excellence. She is board certified as both a Nurse Midwife and Healthcare Executive, is a Fellow of the American College of Nurse Midwives and the American College of Healthcare Executives, and in 2021 was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE OCTOBER 2025

WELCOME BACK

LTC James (Jim) Rodney, USA (Ret) from Suffolk

PACMOAA has 70 paid members as of 24 September. Each newsletter has a dues renewal/ membership application attached at the end. This can be used by PACMOAA members when recruiting new members. A single sheet overview of PACMOAA will also be attached at the end of the newsletter that can be used for recruiting. As I've mentioned in the past, **we need everyone to be a recruiter. Maintaining and/or increasing membership is essential** for a chapter to survive and thrive. Word of mouth and members inviting friends/colleagues is still the most effective method of obtaining new members. As difficult as it is for me as a retired Army nurse to say this, invite one of your Navy colleagues to help celebrate the Navy's 250th Anniversary on 9 October. Potential new members dine with us for ½ price.

Membership numbers are important to help ensure continued legislative advocacy and community involvement! PACMOAA membership helps us advocate on a state level with the General Assembly while MOAA membership contributes to advocating with Congress!

Thank you for any assistance you can provide in helping to increase our membership so we can accomplish the PACMOAA Goals of Membership, Legislative Advocacy, and Community Activities/Service!

Reminder per Guidelines for Paying PACMOAA Dues Online

Members need to create and/or login to their PayPal account.

From the Account Overview page, click the Send button. If prompted for whether the money will be sent to a business or friend, enter "friend". Type PACMOAATreasurer@gmail.com in the block where it says "name, @username, email, or mobile" and click "next". Enter the amount to transmit and add "For PACMOAA Dues/dinner/etc." in the note section and click "continue". Review the information, including the bank account or credit card you want the funds to come from. Press "Send payment now" when everything looks correct.

NOTE: CDR Hans Sachse, USN (Ret) is the PACMOAA Treasurer.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS/ SURVIVING SPOUSE

PERSONAL AFFAIRS UPDATE OCTOBER 2025



It was wonderful to see COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret), at our September meeting with his wife Brenda! They were not able to attend any earlier meetings this year. He has been having significant mobility issues and is slowly improving but still primarily getting around in a wheelchair. For members that do not know Hal, he continuously served PACMOAA over 17 years in variety of leadership roles.

***Pictured to the left:** Hal, wearing his vest covered with military patches from one of his Combat Tracker Reunions.*



CDR Margaret (Peg) Cicirelli, USCGR (Ret) has been a PACMOAA member for over 20 years: serving one term on the Board of Directors, on the Scholarship Committee for three years, representing PACMOAA as JROTC Award ceremonies several times, and participating in the Annual Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade a couple of times. Peg is also a member of the Military Women of Tidewater. She has not been able to attend any meetings in several years due to health issues, misses her PACMOAA friends, and would love to hear from them or have a visit. Her home number is 757-809-0809. **Pictured Left:** Peg Cicirelli dancing with her husband Ray at a PACMOAA Christmas Gala.



Mrs. Tricia Alexander, wife of MAJ Bob Alexander, USA (Ret) died on 28 June 2025. She had been having significant medical issues for some time. I met Tricia at a local carwash and invited her and her husband to our Christmas Gala in 2013. They enjoyed the fellowship and Bob joined at that meeting. Please keep Bob and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

I know of several other members/spouses that are suffering from significant medical issues. Please keep Hal, Peg, and our other members facing illness and their families in your prayers. Some of our members may need help with transportation or simple tasks. If so, please reach out and let me know if we

can help you.

PACMOAA MEMBERS THAT DIED BETWEEN OCTOBER 2023 & OCTOBER 2025 AND WILL BE REMEMBERED AT THE 4TH QUARTER VCOC BIENNIAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY

5 May 2023	Margaret (Peg) Moran, Surviving Spouse
2 March 2024	Martha Anderson, Surviving Spouse
6 June 2024	LTC Richard Yesensky, USA (Ret)
7 September 2024	CWO2 Doug Weller, USCG (Ret), past board member
13 September 2024	LCDR Lynn Terry, USN (Ret), Past President
1 October 2024	CAPT Oran (Sonny) Chenault, USN (Ret), Charter Member
26 October 2024	LTC George Van Laethem, USA (Ret)
14 August 2025	CAPT Robert (Bob) Parker, USNR (Ret), Past President, VCOC Rep., longtime member

Surviving Spouse Corner: Writing Your Legacy

By: Gail Joyce August 29, 2025 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-writing-your-legacy/>

"The legacy you leave is the life you lead." – Unknown

As spouses and survivors of those who have served and defended our freedoms and our country, we play a vital role. We have very interesting and unique stories to tell.

Sharing your legacy – telling your story – will contribute to a more realistic narrative about life in the military and what it means to be a military spouse. It will better describe the roles we as military spouses and survivors have played. We have demonstrated leadership, strength, flexibility, dependability, and determination.

Over the years, whether our spouse was on active duty or retired, we have worked alongside, in front, and behind.

We are often recognized as the unsung heroes of the military establishment.

Sharing Your Story

How do you begin to write about your legacy? First, decide how you want to tell your story: It can be an essay, a video, a recording, a letter, a blog, or a combination of different methods.

Next, decide on your audience: Family? Friends? Colleagues? Community? Of course, you can always produce several versions, depending on your audience and method.

Our stories – our legacy – can demonstrate the unique experiences and challenges we faced when married to a servicemember. These stories provide a personal perspective on military life as we know it. They showcase the many challenges of frequent moves, deployments, and how it all can affect our families, especially our children.

[SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: [Resources for Caregivers](#)]

When writing your story, share the experiences that will educate your readers and create understanding about the different challenges you encountered. Share lessons learned along with any failures ... and successes! Also share stories about special relationships, the numerous moves and major choices you made. Your stories will be celebrated, cherished, and appreciated by your family, friends, and colleagues.

Many stories will turn out to be shared experiences. I travel a lot and talk to MOAA chapters and other military-associated groups where I always tell my story. As I talk about the frequent moves, my constant job changes, making furniture fit, the quarters assigned, and the undesirable locations, I always see a lot of heads nodding “Yes, I know!” right along with me.

And then I hear from other military spouses and survivors – different stories, unique experiences, and outcomes with lessons to be learned.

[SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: [What It Means When a Star Is Gold](#)]

During the military life we have shared with our spouses, we have demonstrated dedication, unwavering support, resilience, sacrifice, solidarity, and courage through many deployments and relocations. Make your story real: Write about what happened and when, and how your feelings are associated with specific events and milestones. Your story has the power to inspire, connect, and endure.

For example, through my talks and shared memories of my husband, Larry, and my son, Casey, I talk about my struggles and small victories, and I find others who can share and relate with my experiences. People often tell me that they remember my story long after I shared it.

Writing a legacy as a military spouse or survivor involves meaningful reflection about your experiences, values, and contributions. Our stories matter, and they need to be told. As Maya Angelou said, “Your legacy is every life you have touched.”

Start writing your story today!

Send Us Your Feedback

We’d love to hear from you. Please let us know if this article was helpful by sending an email to sscomm@moaa.org.

[MORE SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER ARTICLES](#)



Submitted by: Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)
PACMOAA 2nd VP/Membership Chair
Personal Affairs Chair and Surviving Spouse Liaison
Cell 757-630-5608

MOAA & LEGISLATIVE**ACT NOW: Urge Your Lawmakers to Pay Our Troops During a Shutdown**

By: Kevin Lilley September 23, 2025 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/act-now-urge-your-lawmakers-to-pay-our-troops-during-a-shutdown/>

A MOAA-backed bill which would keep paychecks coming for servicemembers and many service-connected civilians if the government shuts down had more than 55 cosponsors as of Sept. 23, showing bipartisan support to shield the total force from budget fallout.

The Pay Our Troops Act of 2026 ([H.R. 5401](#)) would allow the government to use funds “not otherwise appropriated” to cover pay and allowances for armed services personnel as well as civilians and contractors supporting those in uniform. The legislation “provides the financial certainty military families deserve, protecting them from the instability of government shutdowns while they protect us,” said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), [in a news release](#) announcing the bill’s Sept. 16 introduction.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmaker to Protect Servicemembers’ Pay](#)]

“Military service is more than a career; it’s a commitment to defend this nation at all costs,” said Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), a former Navy pilot who introduced the bipartisan bill. “This legislation ensures that we honor the commitment of our troops by guaranteeing their pay, no matter what happens in Washington.”

The legislation would not ensure continued paychecks for members of the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service or NOAA; MOAA will continue to advocate for their protection should the shutdown move forward.

[RELATED: [What Would a Shutdown Mean for Retirement Pay?](#)]

Along with MOAA, other groups supporting the legislation include the National Military Family Association, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), and Blue Star Families.

Familiar Territory

MOAA supported [similar legislation last year](#) as the budget debate moved toward its deadline and has worked on multiple fronts to ensure those in uniform and their families do not suffer financial hardship because the federal government cannot enact a budget on time.

Coast Guard members were not paid during the 2018-19 government shutdown, as funding for the Department of Homeland Security was not restored until the shutdown ended (the Pentagon had been funded by a spending bill in advance of the deadline). Tens of thousands of servicemembers continued their duties during the funding lapse, unsure when their next check would arrive.

[FINANCIAL SUPPORT: [Army Emergency Relief](#) | [Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society](#) | [Air Force Aid Society](#) | [Coast Guard Mutual Assistance](#)]

The Pay Our Troops Act offers some stability to many who wear the uniform (and their families) as the budget situation remains unclear – lawmakers aren’t set to return to Washington until Sept. 29, just hours before the end of the fiscal year. [Ask your legislators to prioritize this fix today.](#)

When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens

Learn more about MOAA’s key advocacy issues and contact your elected officials using our messaging platform.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

NOTE: Rep. Jen Kiggans sponsored a similar bill in 2025. Bobby Scott is a co-sponsor as are 2 other VA representatives with 56 co-sponsors. According to <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/119/hr5401/cosponsors>, the prognosis for this bill passing is only 5% as of 24 September 2025!

Dates Set for 2025 TRICARE, FEDVIP Open Season

By: Kevin Lilley September 17, 2025 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/dates-set-for-2025-tricare,-fedvip-open-season/>

TRICARE Open Season will run from Nov. 10 to Dec. 9, allowing beneficiaries to make changes to their plans that will take effect at the start of the new year.

Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance (FEDVIP) plan participants have a similar window to make changes (Nov. 10-Dec. 8). More information is available [at BENEFEDS.gov](https://www.benefeds.gov).

Medicare's open enrollment period runs Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 annually.

Details on 2026 plans had not been released as of Sept. 16.

MOAA Webinar: What You Need to Know for the TRICARE, Medicare, and FEDVIP Open Season

Register and join us Oct. 23 for a look at what to expect during these open enrollment periods. Our expert will cover plan eligibility and terminology, how to compare plans, and much more in this FREE online event.

Register on this page: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/cf6e9a72-e142-495c-afc2-98a5a5a639dc@8190aedd-e648-4bc2-bfeb-d25a944d2b64>

VA, Veterans Groups Partner for Progress on Mental Health

By: René Campos September 23, 2025 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/advocacy/va,-veterans-groups-partner-for-progress-on-mental-health/>

Note from MOAA: If you or someone you know is in crisis, contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 988 (press 1) or via www.veteranscrisisline.net.

MOAA joined fellow veterans service organizations at a September VA stakeholders partnership meeting as part of both National Suicide Prevention Month and National Recovery Month, with the discussion focused on progress in mental health and suicide prevention.

Leaders from the Veterans Experience Office (VEO), the Office of Mental Health, and the Office of Suicide Prevention shared updates on innovative programs and critical resources available to veterans, families, and caregivers. Here are some of the ways the VA is advancing veteran mental health care:

Strengthening Community Connections: The [VetResources Community Network \(VRCN\)](#) continues to expand its outreach, connecting more than 10 million veterans and their loved ones with trusted local and national partners. By building relationships across communities, the VRCN helps bridge gaps in care, fosters trust, and ensures veterans can access resources that support their overall well-being.

[RELATED: [VA Hospital Ratings Show Gains, But Challenges Remain](#)]

Predictive Modeling to Save Lives: The VA recently upgraded its predictive analytics tool, [REACH VET 2.0](#) (Recovery Engagement and Coordination for Health-Veteran Enhanced Treatment), to better identify veterans at elevated risk of suicide or self-harm. By leveraging expanded clinical and social data contained in veteran electronic medical records, the program allows providers to proactively connect with veterans most in need. Results show fewer suicide attempts, reduced hospital visits, and more veterans engaging in safety planning.

Veterans Crisis Line (VCL): The [Veterans Crisis Line](#) remains a cornerstone of VA's suicide prevention strategy. The 24/7 service, accessible by dialing 988 and pressing 1, answers calls in less than 9 seconds on average. In addition to crisis response, the VA is piloting a program called [Caring Letters](#), which sends brief, supportive messages to veterans after they reach out to the VCL. Originally developed for civilian use, the approach has been shown to reduce suicide risk. VA is now testing its effectiveness with veterans through a multiyear evaluation initiative. These wraparound supports reinforce the message that no veteran has to face crisis alone.

[RELATED: [Veterans Face Access, Payment and Records Delays When Seeking Medical Care at Military Bases, Watchdog Finds](#)]

Face Your Dragon: The [VA Face Your Dragon](#) campaign, part of VA's Keep It Secure initiative, uses the metaphor of confronting a dragon to represent the struggle of a suicide crisis. Developed with input from veterans, the campaign encourages safe firearm storage to create time and space for intervention, reduce stigma, and ultimately prevent suicide. The campaign uses the dragon as a symbol of life's burdens and the fight against suicidal thoughts in an effort to promote secure firearm practices as a simple, effective step to protect veterans in crisis.

MOAA's Commitment

MOAA strongly supports VA's continued investments in mental health services and suicide prevention. Programs such as REACH VET, the VCL, peer support, and community partnerships highlight the power of combining data-driven tools with compassionate outreach.

As we mark National Recovery Month, MOAA reaffirms its commitment to working with the VA, Congress, and partners to strengthen services, expand access, and ensure no veteran faces crisis alone.

Resources for Veterans and Families

- [Veterans Crisis Line](#) — Dial 988 (press 1) or text 838255.
- [Make the Connection](#) — Veterans share real stories of recovery and resilience.
- [VA Mental Health](#) — Tools, information, and support for veterans and families.
- [VA Suicide Prevention](#) — Learn about programs, training, and ways to help.
- [Face Your Dragon](#) — Secure your firearm. Create time and space.

Support The MOAA Foundation

Donate to help address emerging needs among currently serving and former uniformed servicemembers, retirees, and their families.

[Donate Now](#)

What Would a Shutdown Mean for Retirement Pay?

By: Kevin Lilley September 23, 2025 <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/what-would-a-shutdown-mean-for-retirement-pay/>

Retirees and annuitants from the armed services would continue to receive pay during a government shutdown, but beneficiaries who served in the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service or NOAA lack such protections.

A passage in the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) moved Coast Guard military retiree pay under the Pentagon's Military Retirement Fund (MRF), which allows payments to continue during a funding lapse. While USPHS and NOAA retirees and annuitants are paid via the Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center (PPC), they are not paid from the MRF. Their service-specific funding streams would be cut off until funding for the agencies is restored.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Pay Our Troops During a Shutdown](#)]

While the fiscal year (and existing federal funding) ends Sept. 30, USPHS and NOAA retirees would receive their Oct. 1 payments, which cover money owed (and budgeted) from September. However, without a continuing resolution, a full budget, or another fix from lawmakers, these retirees would not receive their next scheduled payment on Oct. 31.

PPC retirees and annuitants received notification of the shutdown-related realities in an email from the Coast Guard this month.

Finding a Funding Fix

As MOAA works to ensure those currently serving – in all branches – continue to receive pay during a shutdown,

Please Memorize the **VETERAN CRISIS HOTLINE Dial 988 then press 1**

we will also work toward our long-standing goal of service parity in these pay issues.

We'll also continue pressing lawmakers to break the long cycle of budget brinkmanship and pass funding bills in a timely fashion, which would alleviate this type of fallout (and save billions of dollars in misaligned funding caused by continuing resolutions).

Those who serve and have served should not bear the cost of congressional inaction, no matter the uniform or type of service. Keep up with the latest on the budget impasse [at MOAA.org/news](https://moaa.org/news), and register at our [Legislative Action Center](#), where you can reach out to lawmakers about this and other key MOAA priorities.



Above Articles Submitted by:
Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)
PACMOAA 2nd VP/Membership Chair
Asst Legislative Rep
Cell 757-630-5608

VCOC AND JLC

Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) The 4th Quarter VCOC Biennial Luncheon and Remembrance Ceremony will be held at the Virginia War Memorial October 14, 2025, from 1000 to 1530 Hours. It is the most Central Location for All Chapters. It will not be available virtually due to cost from the Virginia War Memorial! If you would like to attend, or need more information about this event, please contact Sherry Ferki, a form will be sent out soon on that. Cost will be \$30 per person, which includes lunch by Mission BBQ.



Submitted By:
Ken App
CDR USN (Ret)
PACMOAA VCOC Representative

VCOC Legislative Report & JLC Update

There will NOT be a Legislative article, as the legislation for the JLC Initiatives for 2026 will not be decided until this week, at their meeting.

September 11 ---We Will Never Forget

During the PACMOAA September dinner meeting, I attempted to present two tributes to September 11. For whatever reason, there were some technical difficulties, and the sound was not up to par. So I have included below the two links for the tributes for all to enjoy at their leisure. Reflect and remember.

- 1) Heath Satow Sculpture - 911 Memorial [Heath Satow Sculpture - 9/11 Memorial](#)
- 2) The Pool Cleaner - [How the 9/11 Memorial is Cleaned Five Nights a Week](#)

Submitted By: Mary L. Snyder, PACMOAA VCOC Legislative Representative



PACMOAA listening to Senator Jordan

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COMMUNITY

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

POSITIONS OPEN FOR NOVEMBER 2025 BALLOT

Members elected this fall will serve from January 2026 to January 2028 unless otherwise designated.

Please consider becoming a member of the Leadership Team as an elected officer or in an appointed position. PACMOAA needs as many different perspectives as possible to help us represent all our members and their interests! Spouses can run for office and will have full voting rights while serving as an officer!

The Board of Directors is composed of the elective officers: president; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd vice presidents; secretary; and treasurer; the immediate past president; and four elective directors who will serve for a period of two years. Leadership Team members are expected to attend quarterly board meetings as well as additional meetings as necessary. The board has primarily conducted virtual meetings since May 2020.

Note: Good computer skills are essential to facilitate speedy communication among the Board members.

Positions to be filled with candidates that volunteered to run as of 24 September and a brief overview include:

1st Vice President: Is Program Chair, a member of the BOD, and fills in for the President in his absence. Mary Snyder

2nd Vice President: Is a member of BOD and Membership Chair. Sherry Ferki

Secretary (for the last year of a two-year term): Is a member of the BOD, provides notification of meetings, writes and maintains minutes of all BOD meetings and the Annual November Business Meeting, prepares correspondence as needed. Jim Hoffower

Treasurer: Collects dues and maintains financial records. Prepares a quarterly budget and annual report to the board. Financial or accounting background would be helpful! Hans Sachse

Two Board Members for 2-year terms: "The Board of Directors shall have supervision, control and direction of the affairs of PACMOAA, shall determine its policies or changes therein within the limits of the Bylaws, shall actively prosecute its purposes, and shall exercise direction in the disbursement of funds. It may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as may be deemed advisable and may, in the execution of the powers granted, appoint such agents as it may consider necessary". *From PACMOAA Bylaws*. Also participate in quarterly board meetings and other duties as designated.

Please let us know if you have any questions and/or you are interested in becoming more active and/or running for office. **It would be great to have more than one person run for each position! A complete slate will be presented at the 9 October meeting**, so contact Bill Smith, COL, USA (Ret) Nominating Committee Chair, Immediate Past President at (252) 333-0871 or wmsmith6487@gmail.com before the 9 October meeting.

PROGRAMS

Please mark your calendars NOW for the remaining Dinner Meetings listed below.

13 November 2025	Annual Business Meeting & Celebrating the USMC 250th Birthday
11 December 2025	Christmas Gala
8 January 2025	Installation of New PACMOAA Officer Installation

LISTENING TO SENATOR EMILY JORDAN

Right (L-R): CDR David Von Rump, CDR Scott Dickinson, CDR Hans Sachshe, LCDR Dolly Cherrington, and Col Bill Coburn.



Left Forefront table (L-R): Brenda and COL Hal Hostetler, Lois Yandle, Gladys Steorts, LCDR Bob Wall, and COL Bill Smith

Right (L to R): State Senator Emily Jordan; Jenni Bivins, Chief of Legislative Staff for Senator Jordan; MAJ Sherry & Bruce Ferki; and CAPT Bob Brewer listening to 1st VP Mrs. Mary Snyder kicking off the September Meeting.



PRE-MEETING SOCIAL TIME

Right (L-R): Mrs. Dottie Lindley, Col Bill Coburn, and COL Irv Lindley.

Left: Mrs. Lois Yandle, with Mrs. Gladys Steorts.



Right: Mrs. DeeAnn and CAPT Jim Hoffower



Left: State Senator Emily Jordan conversing with PACMOAA 1st VP Mrs. Mary Snyder. In the right background is MAJ Sherry Ferki, engaging the Senators Legislative Chief of Staff, Jenni Bivins.



Above Right: CDR David Von Rump enjoying camaraderie with Col Bill Coburn



Left: LCDR Paul Stott, with Mrs. Dena Cain, whose flight to Charleston, SC, was delayed, SO they came to Dinner!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

For October in honor of the 250th Birthday of the United States Navy: I offer as a prayer, two verses from the **NAVY Hymn** sung by midshipman at Annapolis.

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep,
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea!*

*Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace,
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea!*



Submitted by
CAPT Bob Brewer,
USN (Ret) Chaplain

CDR Ken App, USN (Ret)
Salute Editor

Editor's Avatar >



An additional Verse of Eternal Father, Strong to Save from the Editor

*Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
Through the great spaces in the sky.
Be with them always in the air,
In darkening storms or sunlight fair;
Oh, hear us when we lift our prayer,
For those in peril in the air!*



THAT'S A WRAP FOR OCTOBER!

Please fill out the form below if any contact information has changed and submit to Sherry Ferki or Ken App.

PACMOAA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM 2025

FULL NAME: _____ NICKNAME: _____

GRADE/RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____

STATUS: Active Retired Former Surviving Spouse

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

MOAA Membership No.: _____ (From MOAA card or Military Officer Mailing Label)

Spouse's Name: _____ Spouse's Nickname: _____

Are you willing to serve as board member or on a committee? () Yes () No

<u>Please circle payment plan you select:</u>	Discount	15%	20%
			<u>Best Value</u>
Membership Category	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Retired/Active/Vet Regular (Voting Member)	\$25.00	\$42.50	\$60.00
Surviving Spouse (Voting Member)	\$20.00	\$34.00	\$48.00
Active Duty (Non-Voting Member)	\$5.00	\$8.50	\$12.00

Mail payment to: PACMOAA at PACMOAA, PO Box 5353 in Portsmouth, VA 23703

NOTE: For members joining after July 1st, \$12.50 for Regular Members or \$10 for Surviving Spouse

Or pay via PayPal: Members need to create and/or login to their PayPal account.

From the Account Overview page, click the Send button. If prompted for whether the money will be sent to a business or friend, enter "friend". Type PACMOAATreasurer@gmail.com in the block where it says "name, @username, email, or mobile" and click "next". Enter the amount to transmit and add "For PACMOAA Dues/dinner/etc." in the note section and click "continue". Review the information, including the bank account or credit card you want the funds to come from. Press "Send payment now" when everything looks correct.

NOTE: CDR Hans Sachse, USN (Ret) is the PACMOAA Treasurer.

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

THE PORTSMOUTH AREA CHAPTER OF



PACMOAA

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is a **nonprofit organization** that advocates for a strong national defense but is politically **nonpartisan**. The association **supports and advocates for government policies that protect the earned benefits of military members** (Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard, and Retirees) **and their families**.

You can make a difference by joining your local MOAA chapter (PACMOAA).

PACMOAA celebrated its **40th anniversary** in April 2023 and participates in numerous community activities:

- **Monthly newsletter** (The Salute) except June/July & Aug./Sept. issues.
- **Facebook group** set up in January 2020.
- **Monthly program/dinner meetings** at Roger Brown's Restaurant & Sports Bar in Portsmouth (except in July & August).
- July is the **annual joint brunch** with other local Chapters of MOAA.
- **Recognition** of superior members of **JROTC units in 14 local High Schools**. Certificates and medals are given to students by a member of the **PACMOAA Leadership Team** at **JROTC Award Ceremony**.
- **Scholarship Award** for local student(s) going to college ROTC and presented at annual Scholarship recognition program/dinner meeting in June. One to two \$1500 scholarships are presented each year!
- Participation in **community activities** like parades, especially the **annual Memorial Day** parade in Portsmouth with **PACMOAA** banner on cars.
- Participation in **Toys for Tots** program at annual Christmas Gala.
- **Donations** to the **Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless**, and to **local JROTC unit** to help raise funds for their participation in activities like drill meets with other JROTC units.
- **Membership in VCOC (Virginia Council of Chapters)**, which is very active in state legislative issues.
 - **One of the VCOC Leadership Team is a PACMOAA member!**
 - **Participate in recognizing federal and state legislators for their efforts for Virginians.**
- Very involved with **MOAA Advocacy in Action** since 2020.
- PACMOAA has been recognized as a **5th Level of Excellence Chapter** for the **15th year** in a row and received **Col Marvin J. Harris Communication Award** at **Five-Star level** for **Print newsletter 5th year & Website for 4th year** in 2025!! These are the highest awards MOAA presents to chapters.

Access more information on PACMOAA at www.pacmoaa.org 6/23/25